DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 026 493 VT 006 688

Training and Utilization of the Physical Therapy Assistant; Policy Statement Adopted by the 1967 House of Delegates.

American Physical Therapy Association, New York, N.Y.
Pub Date 5 Jul 67
Note-2p.
EDRS Price MF-$0.25 HC-$0.20
Descriptors-Associate Degrees, Certification, Clinical Experience, *Health Occupations Education, Occupational Information, *Policy, *Professional Associations, *Standards, Technical Education
Identifiers-American Physical Therapy Association, *Physical Therapy Assistants

The physical therapy assistant is defined as a skilled technical worker who assists the professional physical therapist in patient related activities and carries out designated tasks within a service administered by a professional physical therapist. Training standards require a 2-year college level program administered by a qualified physical therapist within an educational institution accredited by the regional agency and including work which may be credited to a higher degree as well as clinical experience in an acceptable physical therapy service. Functions are outlined and mandatory licensure supported. (JK)

ED026493

AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
1740 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10019

Training and Utilization of the Physical Therapy Assistant

Policy Statement

Adopted by the 1967 House of Delegates.

July 5, 1967

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

TITLE: Physical Therapy Assistant

DEFINITION:

The physical therapy assistant is a skilled technical health worker who has completed an educational program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association.

EDUCATION:

The Association supports the concept of upward educational mobility.

a. The educational program for the physical therapy assistant shall be at a two year college level leading to an associate degree and shall include some course work which may be credited towards requirements leading towards a higher degree.

b. The educational program shall be administratively located within, and offered by, an educational institution which is accredited by the regional accrediting agency in its geographical area.

c. The physical therapy assistant program shall meet the standards of approval established by the APTA.

d. The clinical portion of the educational program shall be:

   1. located within physical therapy services of health care facilities which meet requirements for:

      a. accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and/or

      b. Conditions of Participation standards established by the U. S. Social Security Administration Documents HIM - 1, 2 and 3, 1966, and regulatory changes pertaining to physical therapy and physical therapists up to and including July 7, 1967;

      c. such other facilities with comparable standards and which are acceptable to the American Physical Therapy Association;

   2. supervised by physical therapists who meet standards established by the APTA.

e. The physical therapist who shall have the responsibility and authority for the administration and direction of the physical therapy assistant program shall meet the standards established by the APTA.

VT006688

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIP:

The physical therapy assistant works within a physical therapy service administered by a professional physical therapist who meets the standards established by the American Physical Therapy Association. The assistant performs his duties with the direction and supervision of the professional physical therapist to whom he is directly responsible.

FUNCTIONS:

The assistant's function is to assist the professional physical therapist in patient related activities; to perform such procedures delegated to him that are commensurate with his education and training. He carries out designated tasks which are required for the operation of the service. The extent to which the physical therapy assistant will participate in the following activities will be dependent upon the organization structure and size of the physical therapy service and upon the health needs of the individual patient.

a. Functions as a participating team member who contributes to total patient care.

b. Assists the professional physical therapist in carrying out complex procedures and programs.

c. Performs routine treatment procedures in accordance with the planned programs.

d. Observes, records and reports to his supervisor conditions, reactions and responses related to his assigned duties.

REGULATION:

The APTA supports mandatory licensure or registration for the physical therapy assistant and recommends that such regulations be incorporated into the existing physical therapy laws for the purpose of controlling quality of care and practice.

Affiliation:

Upon completion of requirements as prescribed by the Board of Directors, the physical therapy assistant shall be eligible for an appropriate membership category in the American Physical Therapy Association.

Prepared by Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Utilization and Training of Non-Professional Assistants, March 1967. Amended and adopted as amended by APTA House of Delegates, July 1967.